

# **THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST**

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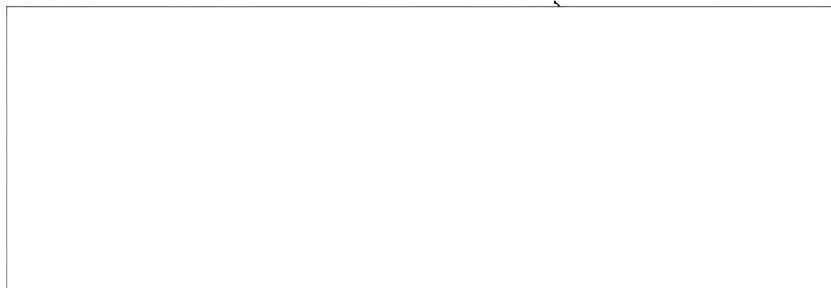


ISSUED BY THE  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

25 SEPTEMBER 1962

~~TOP SECRET~~

1. Cuba



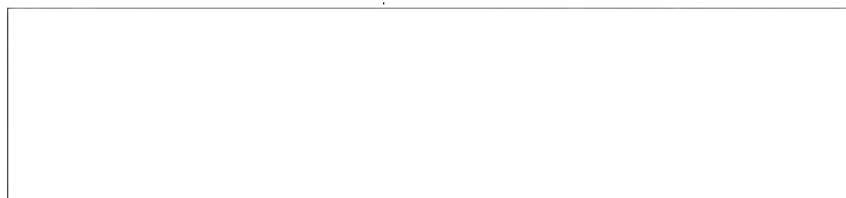
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b. The Soviet build-up is apparently being accomplished at some cost to Moscow's commitments to other countries.



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c. In Paris, NATO countries are split three ways on whether to bar the chartering of their ships to the bloc for the Cuba run. The count is five in favor, four on the fence, and five against. These opposed (UK, Greece, Netherlands, Norway and Denmark) provide the bulk of the shipping involved. They argue lack of authority to prevent trade in non-strategic goods.



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e. The Alpha-66 exile group announced in Miami yesterday that the organization had budgeted more than \$12,000 for another foray against Cuba.

2. Cabot-Wang talks

a. As expected, the U-2 incident over east China earlier this month was the reason the Chinese asked for last Thursday's special meeting with Ambassador Cabot.

b. Wang talked toughly, saying such incidents, if not stopped forthwith, could bring on a war, but did not try to deliver a formal note.

c. Cabot does not rule out the possibility that the Chinese are thinking of using the incident as a pretext to launch some sort of retaliatory operation. He feels, however, that the protest is more probably a reflection of Peiping's gall over what it considers a public demonstration that the US does not show the same prudence toward China that it does toward the USSR.

3. Southern Rhodesia

a. Salisbury's crackdown last week on the local African nationalist movement may bring on more serious violence than the nationalist activities which caused it.

b. Joshua Nkomo, the nationalists' leader who set himself up as head of a government in exile in neighboring Tanganyika on Sunday, plans to use Tanganyika as a base for terrorist activities.

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4. Laos

a. The reactivated Soviet airlift has maintained regular operations to all parts of Laos for the second week running. Our tabulation of 39 flights is down from last week's 59, probably because of bad weather.

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b. The Pathet Lao are again charging that Phoumi's forces are violating the cease-fire. This outburst, we suspect, is meant for the record to provide justification for operations against the Meos and other rightist outposts in Pathet Lao - controlled territory.

c. Playing tit-for-tat, Vientiane yesterday recalled its ambassador from South Vietnam for "consultations."

d. Souphannouvong today took off from Peiping for Moscow after four days of consultations with top Chinese Communist leaders.

## 5. Argentina

a. Guido and Ongania may not be altogether out of the woods, although the prevailing sentiment on all sides is against a renewal of violence.

b. The Navy's unhappiness over the recent turn of events was underscored last night when 25 members of the powerful Council of Admirals turned in their resignations.

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SUMMARY: BERLIN SITUATION

1. Since the closing of the Soviet Kommandatura on 22 August, there has been no major change on the local scene.
2. We think, however, that the trend of events during the past three weeks, as set forth below, strongly suggests that the Soviets will heat up the Berlin problem again in November and at least initiate steps leading to a separate peace treaty. We note that November is the fourth anniversary of Khrushchev's reopening of the Berlin question, and that Soviet military forces normally reach their annual peak of readiness at about this time.

3. Chronology:

28 August: Khrushchev categorically tells U Thant that a treaty will be signed some day soon. Expressed a conviction the West would not fight.

3 September: Ulbricht returns from month-long visit to USSR; [REDACTED]

8 September: [REDACTED] East German forces may be getting ready to blockade Berlin in November.

11 September: TASS notes the pause in Berlin negotiations pending US elections, but emphasizes this is not a retreat from Communist demands.

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11-17 September: Khrushchev takes same line with various European VIP's that he did with U Thant, saying treaty can be delayed until November. He laid out a timetable calling for meetings between Secretary Rusk and Gromyko in New York, followed by his own visit to the UN, during which he hoped to see President Kennedy. He also hinted at an intention to put the Soviet case before the UN in November if a satisfactory settlement had not been worked out.

18 September: TASS calls for abolition of "NATO Kommandaturas" in Berlin and conclusion of a peace treaty.

NOTES

- A. Sino-Indian border There has been no letup in the battle of communiques between New Delhi and Peiping. The only thing that seems to be certain is that skirmishing continues.
- B. East Germany With the harvest in, Warsaw Pact exercises are about to get under way. We have identified some Polish troops in East Germany. [REDACTED]
- C. Communist China First guesses on China's 1962 grain production, now coming in from all sides, are somewhat divergent. Our preliminary estimate lines us up with those who say the harvest will be only slightly better than last year's.
- [REDACTED]

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- E. Yugoslavia-USSR: The Yugoslav reception for Soviet President Brezhnev, yesterday was almost painfully elaborate. Ambassador Kennan comments that the only people who seemed really to enjoy the show were the school children turned out for the occasion. We note that although Brezhnev is making a government-to-government visit, he has the Soviet party official in charge of relations with non-bloc communist parties buried in his entourage.
- F. Ethiopia - Somali Republic: Relations between the two countries, already near the breaking point, may not be able to stand the strain of an Ethiopian attempt on Sunday to arrest a Somali diplomat on charges of spying.